

REMARKS

The Office Action and the cited and applied reference have been carefully reviewed. No claim is allowed. Claims 1-21 presently appear in this application and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are hereby respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-18 and 21 have been rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the description rejection with regard to the prodrug being claimed. This rejection is obviated by the amendment to the claims to delete the recitation of "prodrug" without prejudice.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is obviated by the amendment to claim 19 to recite what is intended for Group A. In addition, the recitation of Group D is introduced into claim 19, as well as in claim 20, based on its recitation in claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 8 and 15-18 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yagi et al. This rejection is obviated by the amendment to claims 1 and 3 to recite for R⁴ that the C₁₋₈ alkyl group included in the definition of R⁴ is

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substituted with one or more R²⁰s and is not an unsubstituted C₁₋₈ alkyl group such as methyl. Thus, claims 1 and 3, and claims dependent therefrom, do not include the compound of Yagi cited and applied by the examiner. Accordingly, Yagi cannot anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, the claims comply with 35 USC §112 and define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable consideration and early allowance are earnestly urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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